

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

REASON

1. To review recommendation from the DCI recommending the establishment of a "Watch Committee".

FACTS AND DISCUSSION

2. State Department IAC representative recommended to the DCI on 17 July 1949 that the Joint Ad Hoc Committee that reported C.E-46-49 "The possibility of direct Soviet military action during 1949" be retained as a permanent committee.

3. The retention of this committee on a permanent basis was deemed advisable in that it would be a means by which the various intelligence agencies could produce comprehensive and factual data as a basis of estimates on the subject. Furthermore, the committee would be of considerable aid in the hurry production of intelligence estimates should a crisis arise.

4. As proposed by the State Department the committee would coordinate intelligence information of the war-like intentions of the USSR and produce periodical intelligence estimates on the subject as it affects our national security.

5. When discussed at the IAC meeting of 19 Aug 1949 the DCI explained that the functions of the proposed committee were being carried out to considerable extent by the various agencies through means of a check off list. However, it was determined that only a few representatives present were familiar with such an arrangement.

6. The DCI now proposes that IAC Members designate two officers as Check List Officer (one for special intelligence, the other for all other type intelligence) to follow trends bearing on the various indicators in the Check List. If approved, he requests that such IAC designated representatives meet with representatives of the CIA to discuss methods and procedures. He recommends that such a committee be strictly on an informal basis and that the committee establish their own system of checks and that they meet as often as conditions require in order to discuss the evidence, to consider estimates and reports on Soviet intentions. He believes that such a committee as proposed would be of inestimable value in providing the continuing means for coordinating and analyzing Soviet war-like intentions and that it would be of considerable aid in the production of national intelligence in the event of an emergency or crisis situation.

2-7121A
1A Cox #
01-72 71

7. Colonel Donald N. Backwitz, AFOWI-AE, ext 75457, was the Air Force representative on the committee referred to in par 2. Lt Col Harold B. Houston, AFOWI-SR, ext 75704, has been most active in coordinating matters of special intelligence. Both are familiar with the Check Off System.

ACTION RECOMMENDED

8. That the attached Memorandum indicating concurrence and designating the above mentioned officers as Check List Officers on the "Watch Committee" be signed.

COORDINATION

Col Frank Sturdivant, AFOWI
Col Williams, AFOWI-AE
Col Barber, AFOWI
Lt Col Houston, AFOWI-SR

TRANSCRIBED PAGES FOLLOW

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

PROBLEM

1. To review Memorandum from the DCI recommending the establishment of a "Watch Committee".

FACTS AND DISCUSSION

2. State Department IAC representative recommended to the DCI on 2[?] July 1949 that the Joint Ad Hoc Committee that prepared ORE-46-49 "the possibility of direct Soviet military action during 1949" be retained as a permanent committee.

3. The retention of this committee on a permanent basis was deemed advisable in that it would be a means by which the various intelligence agencies could produce comprehensive and factual data as a basis of estimates on the subject. Furthermore, the committee would be of considerable aid in the hurry production of intelligence estimates should a crisis arise.

4. As proposed by the State Department the committee would coordinate intelligence information of the war-like intentions of the USSR and produce periodical intelligence estimates on the subject as it affects our national security.

5. When discussed at the IAC meeting of 19 Aug 1949 the DCI explained that the functions of the proposed committee were being carried out to considerable extent by the various agencies through means of a check off list. However, it was determined that only a few representatives present were familiar with such an arrangement.

6. The DCI now proposes that IAC Members designate two officers as Check List Officer (one for special intelligence, the other for all other type intelligence) to follow trends bearing on the various indicators on the check list. If approved, he requests that such IAC designated representatives meet with representatives of the CIA to discuss methods and procedures. He recommends that such a committee be strictly on an informal basis and that the committee establish their own system of checks and that they meet as often as conditions require in order to discuss the evidence, to consider estimates and reports on Soviet intentions. He believes that such a committee as proposed would be of inestimable value in providing the continuing means for coordinating and analyzing Soviet war-like intentions and that it would be of considerable aid in the production of national intelligence in the event of an emergency or crisis situation.

(Page 1, continued)

7. Colonel Donald N. Wackwitz, AFOAI-AE, ext 75457, was the Air Force representative on the committee referred to in par 2. Lt Col Harold B. Houston, AFOIR, ext 75704, has been most active in coordinating matters of special intelligence. Both are familiar with the Check Off System.

ACTION RECOMMENDED

8. That the attached memorandum indicating concurrence and designating the above mentioned officers as Check List Officers on the "Watch Committee" be signed.

COORDINATION

Col Frank Sturdivant, AFOAI
Col Williams, AFOAI-AE
Col Barber, AFOIR
Lt Col Houston, AFOIR-SR